

Sandra Roberts

Oral History Transcription
August 27, 2004 [Side B]

Interviewed by:	David Healey
Place of interview:	Indiana University South Bend
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Approximate length of interview:	33 minutes
Transcribed by:	George Garner, CRHC Assistant Director and Curator.
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Summary:	<p>Sandra Roberts was born in South Bend in 1938 and grew up on the east side. She attended racially mixed elementary and junior high schools before transferring to the predominantly white John Adams High School, graduating in 1956. She experienced racial discrimination but was able to navigate both Black and white social circles due to her light complexion. She attended Indiana University for three years where she was runner-up for Miss Indiana University. She left college after meeting her future husband, a professional baseball player. Roberts married in 1961 when interracial marriage was still illegal in Indiana, requiring special permission from a judge.</p>

00:20 [David Healey] Did you belong to any groups in high school?

00:24 Any special things?

00:26 [Sandra Roberts] I was in the library club.
That's another thing that made me leave Central.
I'm sure I was in a lot more things with Central.

00:37 When I got to Adams, I couldn't play in the orchestra because I couldn't afford to buy my own cello.

00:44 I was in the library club, and I was an attendance clerk.
I worked in the office with the nurse.

00:52 I had another story there.
I remember the nurse asking me, because you're colored, maybe you could answer this question.

01:03 We're having an outbreak of measles.

01:05 She said, if a Black person, I shouldn't say Black, if a colored person, if one of these colored kids gets measles, how am I going to tell?

01:13 I don't want to tell.
I'm like, how am I supposed to know how you're going to tell?

01:17 I said, well, when you get the measles, don't you get pink bumps on you?

01:21 She said, yeah, I guess they're going to get pink bumps on them too.

01:30 I don't know why there's some things you just never forget.

01:33 How many years ago?
That was Adams.

01:37 Yeah, I was an attendance clerk at Adams.

01:39 [DH] So you left just prior to the start of the Civil Rights Movement.
You were a little too young for World War II.

01:53 [SR] I remember the blackouts and all that.
Taking stuff up to the A&P and rationing and baking grease up there for some reason.

02:05 I was always taking baking grease up there.

02:07 [DH] They rendered it for some reason.

02:09 [SR] Yeah, for the weapons or something.

02:13 [John Charles Bryant] Then you used to get ration stamps for sugar.

02:22 [DH] Did you notice any subtle changes in the politics of South Bend?

02:29 You probably didn't pay attention at all to what was going on.

02:30 [SR] I didn't.

02:05 [DH] Did you notice any change? You went to Worthington, you came back, you're an adult. Did you see any difference in South Bend between 1948 and 1958?

02:46 Was there anything going on in South Bend that was different?

02:49 [SR] I knew the Natatorium became integrated because I remember when that happened.

02:53 Harold Webb did that.

Right, John? You remember that?

02:58 Harold Webb is the name of the drummer.

He played in the band at Central.

I remember he was the drummer.

03:04 He was a big guy.

Very dark.

He decided one day, I'm tired of this.

03:11 I don't know what day of the week he went up there and they kept trying to stop him from going in.

03:15 "You can't go in there, sir! You can't go in there, sir!"

03:17 He went in and just jumped right in the middle of the pool.

03:21 For some reason after that it was integrated.

03:24 [JCB] How did he get in there?

03:28 Because you had to pay to get in.

03:30 [SR] Maybe he was saying he was going to see somebody.

03:34 [JCB] He lived in California.

03:37 [SR] Is he still living?

03:38 [JCB] Yeah, he lives in California.

[SR] But I remember he was the one that integrated the Natatorium, wasn't he?

03:45 [JCB] He lives in Oakland.

03:47 [SR] Now whether they made that story up or not, I don't know.

03:50 I remember him saying, "Harold went and jumped right in the middle of the pool with all those white folks in there."

03:57 For some reason after that we were able to go in there.

04:00 Maybe you proved that his color wouldn't.

04:04 [DH] Did you know William Morris?

04:06 [SR] William Morris?

04:07 [DH] Billy Morris.

04:08 [SR] I don't remember that name.

04:09 [JCB] He sold real estate.

04:11 [SR] I remember that name, but I don't think I remember his name.

04:14 [DH] Did you ever know any of the South Bend police officers, African American police officers?

04:21 [SR] Jerome Perkins was one of the.

04:23 [DH] Jerome Perkins.

04:24 Spandward Mitchem?

04:25 [SR] Mitchem.

04:28 [JCB] Al Pope.

04:29 [SR] Al Pope, yeah, because his daughter and my sister were all good friends.

04:35 [JCB] Share with David some of the experiences about the East Side reunion that you just came in for three weeks ago, which was August the 14th, 2004.

04:50 [SR] What do you want me to share about it?

- 04:53 [JCB] Greeting the people and seeing people that hadn't been back there in 20 or 30 years.
- 04:58 What stories you may have had, like with Barbara Hammond and her daughter.
- 05:03 [SR] I just didn't know who she was at first until I was looking at her.
- 05:07 There were so many people there.
- 05:09 Some you recognized right away and others even after they told you who they were.
- 05:14 If you say so, because you don't look like anything I remember at all.
- 05:20 But of course, everybody remembered my sister and I said, you guys have an unfair advantage.
- 05:26 Because there weren't too many of us on this side of town that looked like we did.
- 05:30 So of course, they knew, because I had a couple of people come up to me and say, "are you Sandra or are you Pam?"
- 05:36 I'm Sandra.
I wish I was Pam, but.
- 05:42 [DH] So South Bend for you growing up was a good experience.
- 05:46 [SR] It was a good experience, though.
- 05:49 [DH] You never had anything really bad happen to you here in South Bend?
- 05:53 [SR] Not that I can think of.
If I do, I'll email you to tell you.
- 05:57 [DH] Your father was in a profession that was needed.
- 06:05 I don't think he was ever without work too often.
- 06:08 [SR] No, well, only in the winters.
- 06:10 Because that type of business they had most people would have in their homes, cleaning it up.
- 06:14 [DH] But working at Studebaker wouldn't have been any better, because there was a lot laid off at Studebaker.
- 06:20 [SR] He did work at Studebaker for a couple of years.

06:23 He may have gotten laid off, and that may have been how he got into the profession he got into.

06:29 [DH] Did he have his own company?

06:31 [SR] Yeah.
He had two men that worked for him.

06:35 [DH] Do you remember the name of the company?

06:37 [SR] I don't think it had a name. It was just...

06:39 I don't think my dad ever had a name.
That's a good question.

06:44 I'll have to ask Billy, but I don't think he really had.

06:48 [JCB] He had built up quite a clientele.

06:50 [SR] Yeah, and he worked for a builder.

06:53 Because he came to my wedding.

06:56 [JCB] Colpaert?

06:58 [SR] I want to say Stanz, but it's not Stanz, because that's the cheese people.

07:05 But anyway, he worked for a builder, so the homes that he built, my daddy used it to pay.

07:14 [DH] So he worked all over South Bend?

07:16 [SR] Out in Miami.
I know he built a lot of homes out in Miami.

07:20 Daddy worked out there a lot.

07:24 [DH] Is there anything else you want to talk about that you remember about South Bend?

07:30 You didn't go to the...

07:32 Was there any problem with downtown South Bend buying clothes?

07:35 You never went to a restaurant because money was always tight.

07:38 [SR] Yeah, money was always tight.

07:39 Yeah, but I don't think.

Was there a restaurant somebody could go into?

- 07:43 [JCB] There probably were, but we didn't have the money to go to certain restaurants.
- 07:47 [SR] We didn't have the money to go anyway.
- 07:49 [JCB] And we bought clothes at Max Adler's, Spyro's, wherever you went back then.
- 07:53 [SR] I got my wedding gown...
- 07:55 [JCB] Talk to Dave about your Sunday trips to Paradise Lake.
- 08:02 [SR] Oh, Sundays.
- 08:03 [JCB] And going to how you would make the rounds with your family.
- 08:07 [SR] My mother's family, on her mother's side, were from Cassopolis, [inaudible].
- 08:19 Same thing for my father's mother's family.
- 08:23 [JCB] Their names were what?
- 08:26 [SR] My mother's family was Wilson.
- 08:29 My mother was Wilson and Grady.
- 08:32 And it was the Coker's.
- Coker's was my father's side.
- 08:37 She was Isabel Coker and my mother was Sarah Wilson.
- 08:43 Every Sunday we'd take a ride. We'd go to church.
- 08:46 [DH] Which church did you go to, by the way?
- 08:49 [SR] I went to First A.M.E. Zion as a child because it was on the east side of town.
- 08:53 And my family, you know, founders of Olivet A.M.E.
- 08:58 Back then that was considered a little distance to travel to church.
- 09:02 So we'd go to First A.M.E. Zion Sunday school.
- 09:06 And my father's sister was a Sunday school teacher there and she also played the piano there.
- 09:13 And, but anyway, after church, Daddy...
- 09:19 Mom went to church, Daddy wasn't going to church then.

09:21 He'd have dinner all fixed for us when we got in because we always ate early since we got from church.

09:25 Then we'd get in the car, and we'd alternate Sundays.

09:28 One Sunday we'd go to Vandalia, Michigan to visit my mother's Aunt Stella.

09:35 Her mother's sister, Aunt Stella and Uncle Bill.

09:38 We'd go there and we'd spend an hour or two with them.

09:42 But on the way there we'd stop in Cassopolis.

09:45 It was a little place, I can't remember the name of it.

09:48 It was like a little family bar and restaurant on the hill.

09:51 And Daddy would stop and have a beer and we'd have some soda or something.

09:56 [JCB] And kids could go into bars in Michigan.

09:58 [SR] Yeah, then it was like a family type thing.

10:01 And of course.

10:02 [DH] Oh I remember that, my grandfathers would take me with him to the bar.

10:05 I'd sit in the stool right beside him.

10:07 [JCB] They did that in the 30s?

10:09 [DH] Not that old. [Laughter]

10:13 He'd have a beer and I'd have a Coke and I'd sit right in the stool right beside him.

10:16 [SR] There would be somebody in there they'd know, they'd talk a little bit.

10:19 And we'd get in the car and go up to Vandalia.

10:21 We'd spend a couple of hours with Aunt Stella and Uncle Bill.

10:26 Leave there and I think we'd go to Paradise Lake.

10:30 I'm trying to remember the circuit.

10:31 But then we'd go to a place called Paradise Lake.

- 10:33 And that was like a lake where the rich people from Chicago had summer homes.
- 10:39 But then they had this big pavilion type thing where you'd go in and you could get soda, beer.
- 10:44 They had jukebox playing and dance floor and everything and we loved that.
- 10:48 And then outside you could play horseshoes and we'd walk down to the lake and stick your toes in and everything.
- 10:54 And we'd spend an hour there and then next thing we'd be going to a place called Calvin Center.
- 10:59 A place called Abs. [spelling?]
- 11:02 And my grandfather would always be there.
- 11:04 On Sunday mornings he would come to the house.
- 11:07 He'd be there when we got home from Sunday school.
- 11:09 That was my mother's father that had the barbershop in Mishawaka.
- 11:13 [DH] And the barbershop's name was?
- 11:15 [SR] Otz.
- 11:18 I think it was Otz Otto's Barbershop.
- 11:20 Otto Powell's Barbershop.
- 11:22 His father before him had the barbershop too.
- 11:28 [JCB] Sandra comes from the line of Elijah Powell who lived in Mishawaka.
- 11:34 And then who... you've heard so much and interviewed so much about was Medora Powell.
- 11:18 [DH] Okay.
- [SR] That was my grandfather's sister.
- 11:39 Anyway, Granddad would come by, and we would come around the corner and see his car parked on that.
- 11:46 And he always kept a nice big, nice car.
- 11:50 We'd see him and we'd take off running because we knew there would be bananas and black cherries and grapes and everything there.

11:59 It was just like, oh Granddad's there.

12:01 But anyway, he would be at Abs with his girlfriend because my grandmother became a widow very young.

12:08 My mother's mother died at age 39.

12:10 She was killed in a car wreck, car train wreck.

12:15 And he'd be there with one of his girlfriends.

12:19 And as soon as we'd get to Abs we'd look for him because we knew.

12:23 And we'd run up to him and stand there looking at him.

12:26 Of course, he was a big tease.

12:28 What are you looking at me for?
What do you want?

12:32 Because we were told, we were taught not to ask for something.

12:39 And he let us stand there for a while.

12:41 He said, oh I know what you want.

12:42 He wants some pop, some chips and whatever.

12:46 So he just popped it in his stomach and he'd take off.

12:49 You want to play the games too?

12:52 Because they had shuffleboard games in there too.

12:53 [DH] Okay.

12:32 [SR] You want to play the games too?
Yeah.

12:55 And then they'd sit around talking to my mother and father and Granddad and his girlfriend, whoever was in there.

13:00 And we spent a couple hours in there.

13:03 And it was starting to get dark, it was time to come home.

13:06 And then all the way back Daddy had in Niles at Buster's.

13:10 Buster's was another one of these family things that was so late.

13:13 Mom would get upset when she didn't want to stop, she wanted to go on home.

13:18 Because by that time my Daddy had a beer at Weston Angels and a beer here, a beer here.

13:22 And it was time to go home now.

13:24 So, we stopped at Buster's and then we'd go home.

13:28 And then the next Sunday we'd do that same thing except for we'd go to my father's.

13:34 How was that?

 My father's, mother's, sister's.

13:38 Aunt Grace and Uncle Everett's house.

13:40 Stop and visit them for a couple hours.

13:42 And then do that same circuit.

13:44 [DH] Okay.

13:45 [SR] And we'd alternate Sundays, you know, so we wouldn't show favoritism to one family over the other.

13:51 [DH] Now you mentioned you went to church and Sunday school but your father didn't go.

13:56 [SR] Not then, no he didn't.

13:57 [DH] He stayed home and made dinner.

13:58 [SR] He cooked dinner.

13:59 [DH] Cooked dinner.

14:00 [SR] Dinner was ready when we got home.

 Mama would go.

14:02 [DH] So he was a diverse man.

 He could paint and cook and spend time.

14:08 [SR] My Daddy could cook, yes he could.

14:10 My Daddy was a very smart man.

14:12 I did something, we did something we probably shouldn't have done, but when I was in college and I had to get this book report ready and I didn't have time to do it.

14:20 And I told my Daddy what book I had to read.

- 14:22 He read the book, wrote me a book report, sent it to me and I got an A on it.
- 14:27 [DH] Maybe we don't have to put that in the tape. [Laughter]
- 14:31 [SR] My Daddy was a very, very smart man.
- 14:34 He wanted to be a pharmacist but his parents didn't believe in sending, they believed in sending their girls to college and not their sons.
- 14:44 And my Daddy graduated high in his class and his brother, my Uncle Don, graduated as valedictorian of Central High School but they didn't give it to him because he was Black.
- 14:56 [JCB] What year would that have been?
- 14:58 [SR] Daddy graduated in 1935, so Uncle Don probably was like 33, somewhere in the early 30s.
- 15:05 [JCB] And then she had another aunt on her father's side that worked for the Pentagon.
- 15:11 [SR] Aunt Betty.
- 15:14 [DH] Now why did that family choose to send their daughters to school and not the sons?
- 15:19 [SR] I don't understand that.
- 15:24 But Daddy always said, you know, they believed, or somebody, Mama, somebody told me, Aunt Ethel, they believed maybe because the girls, men were strong and due for themselves or something and girls needed a little help? I don't know.
- 15:37 But I often thought that was unusual myself.
- 15:41 I wish my Daddy had had a college education.
He probably would have become that pharmacist that he would have become.
- 15:50 [DH] Well, have I forgotten to ask you anything that you have a burning desire to share with us?
- 15:55 [SR] I'm sure as soon as I leave here, you get in the car, I'll think of something.
- 16:00 I'll try to think of some of the incidents that happened.
- 16:05 [DH] What about class between, like often when white people believe Black people, you don't see them as being a distinct class structure.

16:21 Your family was working class?

16:23 [SR] My father was working class, yes.

16:26 [DH] How would you characterize African American class structure in South Bend during that time?

16:35 [SR] Well, there were professionals, Dr. [inaudible], lawyers, Dr. Streets was a doctor.

16:43 Most of us were more working class.

16:45 [JCB] More middle class.

16:46 [SR] More middle class, yes.

16:47 [JCB] And I think our family dealt more with morals and principles.

16:51 [SR] That's right.

Even though we were blue collar, we still considered the Roberts family somebody, because they've been there, you know, in the Powell family.

17:03 Even though we didn't have money, my mother gave me ballet lessons.

17:06 She assisted, I take ballet and I loved it.

17:09 I took violin when I was in Pearley.

I played the violin when I got to Central.

17:14 I took up the cello.

17:16 I took piano lessons for three years.

They sacrificed.

17:19 They didn't have money, but they sacrificed to try to give you, you know, cultural type things.

17:26 I was in the H.T. Burleigh Association, got involved in that.

17:31 I guess John's probably talking about H.T. Burleigh, right?

17:34 [DH] Yes, I'm familiar with that.

17:35 [SR] Yes.

I was in that.

17:38 I think I was in two of the operettas.

17:42 So, we, even though we were middle class, working class, we still had a little culture.

- 17:49 [DH] Your parents were very aware of getting the diversity of experiences growing up.
- 17:55 Right.
- 17:56 It paid off.
- 17:58 Yes.
- Like I said, my father was very smart, and he was determined that his children were going to college.
- 18:03 They were going to get the education that we didn't have the money or couldn't get.
- 18:09 [DH] Do you think your parents were satisfied with the results?
- 18:13 [SR] I think so.
- I said that I'm not satisfied that I promised my dad I'd get my degree, because when I got married he said, no, you know, you still haven't got your degree and I want you to promise me that you, you know, find a school in Jersey and get your degree and I know you will.
- 18:29 So, John's going to make me get my transcript here from IU.
- 18:32 [DH] That's right.
- And I won't tell him about that book report that you wrote. [Laughter]
- 18:35 [SR] Oh, please don't.
- 18:36 Please don't tell him.
- 18:38 I said my daddy knew better than I did too, but I guess he just wanted to prove maybe something to himself that.
- 18:43 [DH] Well, I didn't start back to school until I was 48.
- 18:46 [JCB] Really?
- 18:47 [DH] And it's no problem.
- These young kids don't know anything.
- 18:51 [SR] I wonder how, what do they give you on your experience now?
- 18:53 Because there's a school in Jersey called Thomas Edison that will give you credits.
- 18:57 [DH] I really don't think that's really going to help you a whole lot.
- 18:59 [SR] You don't think so?

19:01 [DH] But, because they gave me all kinds of credits, but you still have to extend the credits in the discipline that you're studying.

19:07 Yeah, that's true.

19:08 Those credits are going to help you adapt.

19:10 [JCB] But I told her, she just retired a month ago, and I told her now's a good time to go back and get her degree.

19:18 Because she's had three and a half years of college.

19:21 And she made this promise.

19:24 [SR] I once started out in education and then changed it to business administration.

19:29 [JCB] And Dave, she had the first nickel she made.

19:33 [SR] I did.

19:35 [JCB] She's very frugal.

19:37 [SR] I'm frugal.

My uncle needs to call me cheap, because I handle the money.

19:41 And it's just the way I was raised, because my father said, if you want to go to college, you have to bank \$25 a week in your checking, in your bank account.

19:52 Well, I only made \$40, and when they got to taking out the taxes and everything, I can tell you today what I made, thirty-three dollars and forty cents.

20:01 That's my take-home pay.

20:03 Twenty-five dollars went in the bank each week, and that was the rest of the money for me to live off of, to buy my clothes.

20:09 [JCB] Tell them how you used to buy sandwiches sometimes.

20:14 [SR] Oh, I loved to go.

I used to go to Kresge's, and I used to get 50 cents a day for lunch. Two dollars and fifty cents.

20:22 My dad said, now you can pack a lunch, and take your lunch, or you can spend this 50.

20:28 I can't show you how you spent it, but this is your money for the week for school.

20:33 I would go, sometimes I'd buy the lunches.

20:38 They were 35 cents, weren't they?

20:39 [JCB] At Central.

20:40 [SR] At Central, yeah.

20:42 [JCB] Brownies were three for 10 cents.

20:57 [SR] Yeah, well, I'd buy the lunch, or if we were going downtown, I would get, go to Kresge's and get the barbecue beef, which was a quarter, I think, and a lime phosphate, which was a dime, so that was 35 cents.

20:22 I think I had to take my car fare out of that, too.

You know, the bus cost five cents to ride the bus.

I don't know if that had to come out of there, too.

21:05 [DH] 45 cents, that round trip.

21:07 [SR] Yeah.

21:08 [DH] Pretty expensive.

21:09 [JCB] Now, where did you eat at Kresge's?

Upstairs or downstairs?

21:12 [SR] Downstairs, where they made the donuts.

They made the donuts right there, and they had a thing where they had the barbecue beef.

21:18 [JCB] Well, wasn't that upstairs, where they made the donuts?

21:20 [SR] I don't remember, John.

I don't have a good memory like you do.

All I know is I went to Kresge's and bought barbecue beef and lime phosphate, and then there was a place—

[DH] She remembers how much it cost.

21:28 [SR] I sure do.

21:29 [DH] She doesn't remember where she ate it at.

21:30 I sure do.

21:31 [JCB] Did you have a problem being served at Kresge's?

- 21:34 [SR] No. I was with my friends.
It wasn't like I was there by myself, because I didn't like to hang by myself.
- 21:42 Oh, problems at Kresge's. I don't remember having any problems downtown, in the movies or anything.
- 21:50 You know, we didn't have to go upstairs.
I could tell you a story, but it's not about me, but my uncle told me a story about them in Mishawaka.
- 22:00 Because my grandfather had this barber shop, and they were one of the very few Black families in Mishawaka, and they may have been the only one at the time.
- 22:10 And they had a theater, and I think it was called the Lincoln Theater.
- 22:13 And they used to go to that theater all the time, and they could sit anywhere they wanted.
- 22:18 And the man that owned the theater sold it to somebody else, and I think the gentleman was from the South.
- 22:25 So one Sunday or whatever day it was they were going to the movies, they went in, and my grandfather, who was brown-skinned, and my Uncle Chet, my mother's brother, took more of his color after his father than his mother, but he was still fair, but he had a little more color.
- 22:41 And then there was my mother and her sister, with the blonde hair and the light eyes, and their mother, who had blonde hair and blue eyes.
- 22:51 So, they came into the theater, and the man stopped and said to my mother's mother and to my mother and my Aunt Mary Grace, they were little, you two can go on in, but you two have to go upstairs, talking to my grandfather and my uncle.
- 23:06 And my grandfather said, no, we can sit anywhere we want. He said, oh no, you can't.
- 23:11 Coloreds sit upstairs, so you two go upstairs.
Well, of course, they left.
- 23:17 And my grandfather, being very well-known in the town of Mishawaka, went to the mayor and told him what happened.

- 23:23 And the mayor came down and got that man straight and said, look, when the Powell family comes in here, you may own this theater, but if you want to stay in this town, you will let them sit where they want to sit.
- 23:33 I said, I love that story, Uncle Chet.
- 23:36 [DH] Okay.
Well, John, thank you for covering it.
- 23:44 [JCB] Yeah, thank you.
- 23:46 We just had a little addendum.
[Audio stops and restarts]
[DH] We were talking about baseball, and Sandra was mentioning that her father played for the South Bend Monarchs.
- 23:54 [SR] Yes, and my father was a pitcher.
I was old enough to go to the games, so I'm trying to remember what years that was.
- 24:01 I was born in 1938, so I had to be in the 40s.
And he was a pitcher, and his nickname was Big Pitch.
- 24:08 My father was very tall, he was 6'4 1/2".
And my mother used to take us to go to the games.
- 24:14 There were night games, too.
- 24:16 [JCB] Where were the games?
- 24:18 [SR] Probably at Lippincott Field.
- 24:19 [SR] On the south side or somewhere.
- 24:20 [DH] They played a lot at Lippincott.
The name after the doctor here in town.
- 24:25 [Both John Charles and David attempt different pronunciations. Likely, they're referring to Lippincott field.]
They played a lot of games there.
- 24:27 [SR] Yeah, I think that's the name of the place.
- 24:29 [DH] And the South Bend Monarchs and the South Bend Foundry Giants were two male teams that were very good.

24:36 [SR] Very good, yes. My father, as a matter of fact, he was a team out in the Midwest.

More of a pro team than the Monarchs.

24:49 [DH] Well, there was a pro team, the Monarchs, that Satchel Paige pitched for.

24:54 [SR] Maybe this Monarch was a...

24:56 [DH] They had the same name, but the Monarchs were out of Kansas.

25:02 [SR] A team in Kansas.

My father, when he was 16, sort of recruited, but his mother wouldn't let him go.

25:10 My father loved baseball.

25:12 [DH] Your father just didn't have a break.

25:15 [SR] He didn't have a break because...

25:17 [DH] He couldn't go to college because he was a boy.

25:19 [SR] Yeah, but you'd think she'd let him go out there.

25:24 That was a chance for him to make money and everything.

25:10 Now, these are the stories.

You know how they're passed down.

25:26 But I can believe that my father, because he was supposed to be very good.

I think he played for Central.

25:32 He was in high school.

He was a pitcher.

25:36 [JCB] Why don't you tell Dave about you taking your brothers to Mishawaka for haircuts.

25:44 [SR] Okay, well, like I said, I told you my grandfather had the...

I think he had the only Black barber, well, it wasn't a Black barber shop, because his clientele was all white.

25:56 And when my brothers were younger, I would get on the bus, on the Notre Dame bus, and transfer to the...

26:03 What bus takes you to Mishawaka?

26:05 Whatever bus takes you to Mishawaka downtown and take my brothers for their haircuts.

26:09 My grandfather would do it.

26:11 That was another fun thing to do because he would always give us money when we got there.

26:15 He would tease us, and the haircuts would be done.

26:18 And he'd say, well, you can go home now.

26:20 He said, both of you have your haircuts, you can take them on home now.

26:24 And we'd just keep sitting there because we knew he was going to give us some money.

26:27 But he would tease us.

26:30 He would tease us and finally say, oh, I guess you want some money or something, right?

26:35 Yeah, granddaddy, yeah, let me give you some money and then we'd leave.

26:40 My grandfather was a big tease.

26:42 [JCB] Did Renelda Robinson's mother, who used to write the East Side "Colored Circles," do you remember any of that, the writings or anything like that, or the "Colored Circles?"

26:57 [SR] No, but I ran across some of them when I was doing my research.

27:00 Somebody would start reading them and recognizing names.

27:03 [JCB] They were called "Colored Circles" and then they were called, what Dave...

27:08 [DH] Well, they had to change the name because they had to get rid of the name Colored because that was in the NAACP, threatened to take the *South Bend Tribune* to court.

27:17 I can't remember what to change the name to.

27:20 [JCB] I should know it.

27:23 But it was Renelda Robinson's mother, Mrs. Boswell.

27:28 [SR] I thought someone else was speaking about this.

27:31 To show you how our own people sometimes can be prejudiced too.

27:36 When I was at IU, *Ebony* Magazine came to campus because they had a magazine called *Tan* Magazine.

27:42 I don't know if you're familiar with that.

27:43 [DH] I've never heard of that.

27:44 [SR] It was *Tan* Magazine.

27:48 It was like a...

27:50 [JCB] Supplement of *Ebony* and *Jazz*.

27:28 [SR] Yeah, but it was...
I'm trying to remember if it had love stories in there.

27:54 Do you know how... Remember the magazines you could buy that had a lot of love stories in them?

27:58 And on the cover, they would have a picture, a face picture of a woman.

28:06 So, they came to IU to find some subjects to take.

28:10 And I don't know who they were.

28:13 They had this one person, and she recruited a lot of us for a photo shoot to have our pictures taken.

28:21 And so, when they came to my picture, of course Nancy got a better picture.

28:26 It was on the cover of one of them.
Of course, Nancy had dark hair and dark eyes.

28:30 My hair was blonde, and my eyes were light and they said, "No, we can't use you, you're too light."
You can't be on *Tan* Magazine. Gee, thanks.

28:39 But I don't know if anybody else got their picture on there.

28:43 Of course Nancy had been Miss...

28:45 [JCB] Indiana University.

28:46 And she was the first Black to be Miss Indiana University.

28:49 [SR] Yeah, and that was publicity for them too after having her picture on there.

28:52 And I wasn't anybody, so...

28:54 [JCB] And then she went from there to *Ebony* fashion show for a year.

29:01 [SR] Nancy did.
I had a chance to go on that too.

29:03 [JCB] She had a chance to go, but she had a bad experience.

29:06 [SR] Yeah, I did.
And number one, I didn't have any clothes.

29:12 Because the girls that were models on there, they had wardrobes.

29:16 So, I said, I'm coming in with all these suitcases and everything.

29:19 And I said, I can't travel with them because I don't have the clothes to wear on this tour.

29:23 You know, they give you the clothes to model, but then they must.

29:26 Afterwards, you went to a lot of places where they need a lot of clothes to socialize.

29:30 So, I didn't have the clothes.

29:34 That's not why I didn't go.
I didn't have the clothes.

29:36 It had nothing to do with what he said to me, Mr. Johnson.

29:43 [JCB] He was a little fast for his time.

29:45 Yeah, he was.
He got very fresh.

29:47 [DH] He was the promoter for this.

29:49 [JCB] He owns Johnson & Johnson Publishing Company.

29:52 [SR] Yes, he got a little fresh.

29:56 He said some things that were out of line.

30:00 So, that was another good reason not to take the job.

30:04 [DH] Well, I guess we've covered everything.

30:06 I really appreciate your time.

30:08 [SR] Thank you.
30:10 I enjoyed it.
30:11 [DH] See, it wasn't so bad.